

STEVEN R. BIGGS, DC, MD, DABCO
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211 Parkway Dr.
Kalispell, MT 59901
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Exhibit No. 5
Date 4-6-09
Bill No. HB 662

March 26, 2009

HB 662 Testimony

Esteemed Legislators,

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this very important Bill for massage therapy licensure.

As a licensed Montana chiropractic physician who also holds a MD degree, I would like to impress upon this body the necessity of this Bill and some differences between the physical therapy profession and massage therapists who meet the requirements for national certification. As part of my practice, I routinely refer patients to other physicians, physical therapists and massage therapists. In my experience, there are very few other professionals than massage therapists who possess the skills necessary to treat soft tissue injuries with manual applications.

I have researched the soft tissue manipulation education at the University of Montana DPT program and have deduced that they are exposed to a very small amount of soft tissue manipulation in course G526 Physical therapy Interventions 1. In contrast to the amount of training in this very specific modality that a massage therapist receives, the physical therapist is greatly disadvantaged in this particular aspect of manual treatment modalities and in my opinion, should refer patients to a qualified massage therapist when this treatment modality is needed.

→ ABOUT
20 HRS
COMPARED
TO MTS
TRAINING
IN ONE
MODALITY/
RATHER
MASSAGE
FOR
HUMANES
OF HRS.

Another point of contention that may be in your mind relative to this Bill is some peoples objection to massage therapists treating people with specific injuries or pain. Let me assure you that the education in pathology relative to massage techniques impact on the pathology or injury and whether a therapist should treat or refer a particular individual, is adequate to assure quality of care and protection to the general public and equips the massage therapist to practice in an individual setting or as part of a health care team.

I have taught anatomy & physiology, pathology and orthopedic assessment at the Montana Institute of Massage Therapy for numerous years and we utilize textbooks and materials specifically geared toward the massage therapy profession. I have taught other

licensed health care professionals i.e. RN's and physicians assistants who find the coursework challenging and appropriate for the independent application of massage therapy as a modality for treatment of injury and pain conditions.

I would be more than happy to entertain questions from this collective body at any time to help you make an informed decision on this Bill.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Biggs', with a stylized, cursive flourish.

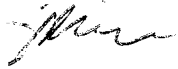
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NAMED
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HUNDREDS
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